

LAND 6330 Syllabus, Fall 2011

Prof. Bruce Ferguson: 503 Caldwell, on campus every weekday
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Course description

Introduction to materials of landscape architectural construction; their physical characteristics; their effects on people, environment, and economy; their installation methods; their purposeful use in design; sources of information about them and their use; and their documentation in contract documents. Specific objectives:

1. To convey the professional basics of landscape construction drawing and specification;
2. To bring the interests, motivations, and decision-making activities of individual students to landscape construction, so that individual students can discover their own minds in application to landscape architecture;
3. To put students into direct working contact with sources of landscape construction information;
4. To experience the design and specification of three common types of landscape construction systems: pavement, wall, and boardwalk, in their full context of site-specific concerns.

A pile of rocks ceases to be a pile of rocks the moment a single man contemplates it, bearing within him the image of a cathedral. - Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Class resources

There is no required textbook in the course, because any textbook would artificially limit the boundaries of the course's subject and the means of student learning. The idea is, instead, for students to experience learning by first-hand communication with all the world's information sources, and by first-hand observation of constructed works in the field.

Several construction reference publications will be on class reserve in the Owens Library. One of them, *Landscape Architectural Graphic Standards, Student Edition*, is recommended for student purchase, and for reference both in this course and for several years afterwards.

A class folder on the Caldwell server will be available for submittals and references.

In addition all class documents and numerous references will be posted at the following off-campus web site for 24/7 student access: web.me.com/brucekferguson.

Course design project

The teaching of the course is organized around a single design project, consisting of the grounds of a hypothetical office building. The intent is to make, by the end of the semester, a complete, coherent set of construction drawings suitable for use in contractor bidding and implementation.

Each student has the option to draft by hand or on CAD. Both manual and CAD graphics are valuable skills in landscape architectural employment and practice. However, all students are advised to choose CAD, for a variety of practical reasons during the semester and long-term accumulation of portfolio projects.

The final submittal will be a compilation of the complete construction set: one set of paper printouts, and one set of pdf files in the Caldwell folder. Both sets will be retained for display in future editions of this class, and exhibit to ASLA accreditation teams.

Required projects & course grade

The course grade will be based on the following student projects, which are components of the course-long design documentation project. They are listed in chronological order; the exact due dates are shown on the class schedule.

Research project	Required for class but not graded
Site design	Required for class but not graded
Pavement construction	25 % of semester grade
Wall construction	25 % of semester grade
Deck construction	25 % of semester grade
Summary project	25 % of semester grade
Total course grade	100 % of semester grade

Grading scale

A 94.00-100	C+ 77.00-79.99
A- 90.00-93.99	C 74.00-76.99
B+ 87.00-89.99	C- 70.00-73.99
B 84.00-86.99	D 65.00-69.99
B- 80.00-83.99	F 64.99 and below